

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117498

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, US, ET

SUBJECT: ADDOU- NEWSOM TALKS

1. IN MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM, SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU EXPRESSED SOMALI PLEASURE OVER OAU SUMMIT RESULTS, REFERRING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF OAU " GOOD OFFICES" COMMITTEE AS SOMALI DIPLOMATIC VICTORY. ADDOU SAID BORDER PROBLEM OVERSHADOWED ALL OTHER MATTERS DURING HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN SOMALIA. ACCORDING TO ADDOU, DURING MAY 21-30 PERIOD FEAR WAS GREAT IN MOGADISCIO THAT ETHIOPIAN TROOPS " MASSED ALONG BORDER" WOULD ATTACK ANY HOUR, BUT SUCH FEARS HAVE NOW SUBSIDED.

2. ADDOU' S EARLY RETURN TO WASHINGTON DUE TO REPORTS THAT EMPEROR' S VISIT HAD ELICITED U. S. COMMITMENT TO EQUIP ETHIOPIAN ARMORED BRIGADE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE ALONE IN SOMALIA DENIGRATED SUCH REPORTS ON BASIS ACCOUNT TO
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EMPEROR' S VISIT WHICH NEWSOM HAD GIVEN HIM PREVIOUSLY (STATE 94880). NEWSOM REASSURED ADDOU THAT IEG HAD RECEIVED NOTHING THAT WOULD CAUSE CONCERN AMONG SOMALIS.

3. ADDOU STRESSED PRESIDENT SIAD' S DESIRE THAT U. S.- SOMALI RELATIONS SHOULD IMPROVE TO " HIGHEST POINT EVER." SIAD' S RECEIVING AMBASSADOR LOORAM FOR LONG MEETING ON DAY OF LATTER' S RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON

WAS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THIS DESIRE. MOREOVER, SIAD HAD INSTRUCTED AIDES TO REVIEW POST- COUP POLICY RESTRICTING SOMALI OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS. ADDOU EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT RELAXING THIS POLICY TO BE MADE SOON. WHILE OBVIOUSLY ANY POLICY CHANGE WOULD INCLUDE ALL FOREIGNERS, SIAD ACTING ON BASIS ADDOU' S INFORMING HIM OF U. S. DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NO CONTACTS WITH SOMALIS POSSIBLE EXCEPT AT HIGH LEVELS. SIAD HAS ALSO APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE U. S. NAVAL VISITS, ACCORDING ADDOU, AND HOPED THAT NEWSOM AS WELL AS U. S. CONGRESSMEN MIGHT VISIT SOMALIA IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. ADDOU SAID GSDR WOULD GLADLY ISSUE INVITATIONS TO SUCH CONGRESSMEN AS MIGHT BE ABLE MAKE VISIT. HE SOUGHT AF' S HELP IN STIMULATING CONGRESSIONAL VISITS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY BY NEWSOM ADDOU ACKNOWLEDGED DISCUSSING CUBAN- VIETNAM SHIPPING ISSUE WITH SIAD. STATED PRESIDENT NOW UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM IS UNESCAPABLY LEGAL ONE BUT HOPES END OF VIETNAM WAR WILL PERMIT EARLY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. IN MEANTIME HOPES SOME PROGRESS IN RELATIONS CAN BE MADE ELSEWHERE, I. E. SDB LOAN FORGIVENESS.

5. MEMCON BEING POUCHED.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ADDOU WAS OVERLY DRAMATIC IN DESCRIBING SOMALI FEARS OF SPECTER OF POSSIBLE INVASION OF COUNTRY AT ANY HOUR BY ETHIOPIAN FORCES, IT QUITE APPARENT THAT SUCH FEARS, HOWEVER UNWARRANTED, WERE REAL. NEWSOM POINTED OUT THAT ON BASIS OUR TALKS WITH EMPEROR HE CONVINCED ETHIOPIA HAD NO MORE DESIRE THAN SOMALIA TO EMBARK ON MILITARY VENTURE AGAINST ITS NEIGHBOR.
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ETHIOPIAN FORCES MOVED TO BORDER AREA FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AS CONSEQUENCE IEG' S GROWING FEARS THAT RECENT LARGE DELIVERIES OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT WERE TO BE USED AGAINST ETHIOPIA. IN VIEW EXTENT OF EARLIER SOMALI FEARS EMBASSY ADDIS MAY WISH TO CONVEY TO APPROPRIATE IEG OFFICIAL AT SUITABLE OCCASION SUBSTANCE OF THIS ASPECT OF NEWSOM TALK WITH ADDOU. PORTER

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